

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ( ISO ) W  
-----190219Z 000998 /13

R 181635Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5973  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMCONSUL DURBAN  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0581

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR SF  
SUBJ: BOTHA INTENDS FOLLOW UP ON YOUNG STATEMENT  
DESPITE US CLARIFICATION

REF: A) CAPE TOWN 0565; B) STATE 086311

1. SUMMARY: CAMPAIGNING IN HIS LOCAL CONSITUENCY OVER  
THE WEEKEND, FONMIN BOTHA IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID HE  
INTENDED TO SEND ANOTHER MESSAGE TO THE US PROTESTING  
THE "INSULT" CONTAINED IN AMB YOUNG'S REMARK ABOUT THE  
ILLEGITIMACY OF THE SAG. A CHECK WITH DFA SECRETARY FOURIE  
REVEALS HE KNEW NOTHING OF BOTHA'S STATEMENT OR PLANS.  
HE IS NOT AWARE OF SAG INTENTION TO MAKE ANOTHER DEMARCHE.  
WITH CONCURRENCE OF PRIME MINISTER, HE IS TELLING PRESS  
THAT HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO FONMIN  
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BOTHA. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

2. SUNDAY TIMES HEADLINES APRIL 17 "PIK PUNCHES BACK  
AT ANDY" IN DESCRIBING INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER  
PIK BOTHA GIVEN DURING WEEKEND OF CAMPAIGNING IN THE  
WESTDENE AREA NEAR JOHANNESBURG, WHERE BOTHA IS STANDING

FOR ELECTION TO THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY EARLY IN MAY.  
ASKED IF THE USG "REPUDIATION OF MR. YOUNG'S REMARKS"  
WAS SUFFICIENTLY STRONG TO SATISFY HIM, BOTHA REPORTEDLY  
REPLIED, "WE ASKED THEM TO STATE CLEARLY WHETHER THEY  
AGREED WITH HIS ATTITUDE OR NOT. THEY SAID IT WAS  
INCORRECT. THERE IS THEREFORE NO CHANGE IN THE US  
ATTITUDE TOWARD RECOGNITION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT,  
AND THAT IS THE HEART OF THE MATTER. IT IS A STATEMENT OF  
FACT. WE COULD NOT ASK THEM TO SAY MORE OR LESS. WE RECEIVED  
A FIRM AFFIRMATION THAT THE STATUS QUO HAD NOT CHANGED."

3. IN WHAT REPORTER FLEUR DE VILLIERS CHARACTERIZED AS  
A "SCATHING ATTACK ON THE CREDIBILITY OF AMBASSADOR  
YOUNG," BOTHA ALLEGEDLY WENT ON TO WARN THAT SOUTH AFRICA  
WOULD HAVE TO RECONSIDER ITS RELATIONS WITH THE US MISSION  
AT THE UN AFTER MR. YOUNG'S "INSULTING" REMARKS. "WE  
CANNOT INSIST THAT MR. YOUNG RETRACT HIS REMARK. WE CANNOT  
PRESCRIBE TO THE US, BUT THE US WILL HAVE TO DECIDE TO  
WHAT EXTENT HE CAN RETAIN HIS USEFULNESS AS A SPOKESMAN...  
HE OBVIOUSLY THINKS THAT IS THE WAY TO CONDUCT INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS, BUT DON'T EXPECT ME TO ATTACH ANY CREDIBILITY  
TO WHAT HE SAYS." NOTING THAT HE INTENDED TO SEND  
ANOTHER MESSAGE TO THE US OBJECTING TO THE "INSULT,"  
BOTHA REPORTEDLY SAID "WE MUST DECIDE HOW MR. YOUNG'S  
ATTITUDE AFFECTS OUR RELATIONS WITH THE US MISSION.  
WE WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER THE PURPOSE OF ANY FURTHER  
DISCUSSION WITH A REPRESENTATIVE WHO HOLDS THIS KIND  
OF VIEW AND WHO SEES FIT TO INSULT THE GOVERNMENT OF  
ANOTHER MISSION IN THIS WAY." END UNCLASSIFIED.  
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4. COMMENT: THIS MORNING I ASKED DFA SECRETARY FOURIE  
WHAT HE COULD TELL ME ABOUT THE ACCURACY OF THE MEDIA  
REPORTS. HE REPLIED THAT WHEN FONMIN LEFT FOR JOHANNESBURG  
LAST SATURDAY, HE SAID NOTHING ABOUT FOLLOWING UP FRIDAY'S  
DEMARCHE WITH FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS. FOURIE SAID HE  
HAD NOT TALKED TO BOTHA SINCE HE LEFT AND THEREFORE DOES  
NOT KNOW HOW ACCURATELY BOTHA MAY HAVE BEEN QUOTED BY  
THE PRESS REPORTS. I ASKED HIM HOW HE IS HANDLING MATTER  
WITH THE PRESS. HE REPLIED THAT AFTER OBTAINING THE  
APPROVAL OF PRIME MINISTER VORSTER, HE IS TELLING THE  
PRESS THAT HE HAS NOTHING TO SAY ON THIS SUBJECT. FOR  
THE REPORTERS' BACKGROUND ONLY, HE IS TELLING THEM THAT  
SAG DOES NOT CONDUCT ITS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS THROUGH  
THE PRESS. I TAKE ALL OF THIS TO MEAN THAT THE STATEMENTS  
ATTRIBUTED TO BOTHA MAY BE PART OF HIS CAMPAIGN RHETORIC  
AND WERE NOT COORDINATED WITH FONMIN AND PM. I WILL GET A  
BETTER FIX ON THE BACKGROUND AND HIS INTENTIONS WHEN I SEE  
BOTHA TOMORROW.BOWDLER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, ALLEGATIONS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BOTHA INTENDS FOLLOW UP ON YOUNG STATEMENT DESPITE US CLARIFICATION  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SF, US, USUN, (YOUNG, ANDREW), (BOTHA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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